

DELAWARE BASIN SOURCE WATER COLLABORATIVE

Scope: Regional/Watershed

Location: Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

SCOPE:

- » Regional, basin-wide partnership to identify and explore issues impacting water resource sustainability for the more than 15 million people who rely on surface and ground water from the basin for drinking water.
- » Coalition of both state and federal government agencies and organizations.
- » Efforts include portions of the states of Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

The initial effort was a basin-wide forum in 2011 on drinking water resources. The forum involved two components: 1) presentations by speakers from public and private interest groups, broadcast via teleconference to six locations along the river basin, and 2) decentralized meetings in regional offices inviting community members, water operators, municipal and public works officials, and representatives of environmental groups. Since the forum, EPA Region 3 operates the website/webinars as an outreach tool.

MEMBERS:

- » US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 2 and Region 3)
- » State environmental and health agencies (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania)
- » Delaware River Basin Commission
- » American Planning Association
- » American Water Works Association
- » Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- » Association of Clean Water Administrators
- » Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- » Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- » Clean Water Fund
- » Environmental Finance Center Network
- » Groundwater Foundation
- » Ground Water Protection Council
- » National Association of Counties
- » National Environmental Services Center, West Virginia University
- » National Ground Water Association
- » National Rural Water Association
- » North American Lake Management Society
- » River Network
- » Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- » The Trust for Public Land

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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- » US Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency
- » US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
- » US Geological Survey
- » Water Systems Council

WATER CONCERNS:

- » Flow (too much and too little)
- » Nutrients, pharmaceuticals
- » Hydrofracturing impacts

STRATEGIES:

- » Heighten awareness of issues and decisions affecting water resources and create a framework for ongoing collaboration among officials, planners, water suppliers and other stakeholders and practitioners
- » Connect basin-wide and local actors, issues, and needs.

RESULTS:

- » Creation of detailed website with collaborative information, specifics about water source, contact information, and other resources.
- » Webinars to share successful source water protection approaches and funding options